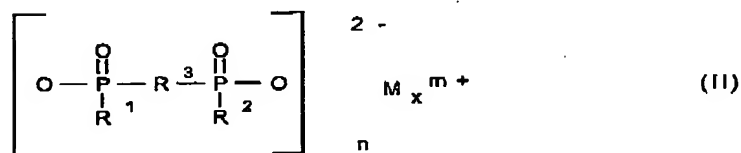
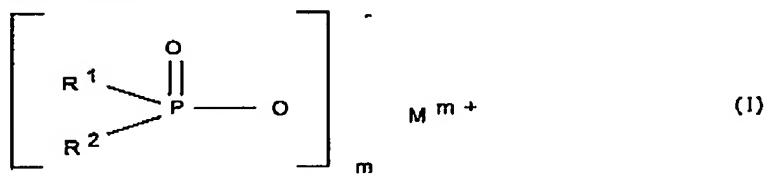


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### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a surface-modified phosphinic salt selected from the group consisting of formula (I), a surface-modified diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), mixtures of formula (I) and formula (II), polymers of formula (I), polymers of formula (II), and mixtures of polymers of formula (I) and (II) and mixtures thereof.



where

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are identical or different and are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, linear or branched, or aryl;

R<sup>3</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkylene, linear or branched, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4,

wherein the phosphinic salt and/or diphosphinic salt, or their polymers, have been encapsulated with a surface layer composed of a synthetic resin or a wax.

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2. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are identical or different and are  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, linear or branched, and phenyl.
3. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are identical or different and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl and phenyl.
4. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene or n-dodecylene.
5. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  is phenylene or naphthylene.
6. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  is methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene, or tert-butylnaphthylene.
7. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  is phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene, or phenylbutylene.
8. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein M is calcium, aluminum, or zinc.
9. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the synthetic resin comprises a curable resin.
10. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 9,

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wherein the curable resin is an epoxy resin, a phenolic resin, or a melamine resin.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of the synthetic resin is from 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

12. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of the synthetic resin is from 0.5 to 10% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

13. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon waxes, ester waxes, oxidized polyolefin waxes, oxidized hydrocarbon waxes, amide waxes, wax acids, wax soaps and a combination of these components.

14. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax is used in a form selected from the group consisting of powder, micropowder, dispersion in water, dispersion in solvent, and in the form of dispersions in water/solvent mixtures.

15. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount added of the wax is from 0.5 to 10% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

16. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein a water-emulsifiable organic liquid acting as phlegmatizer is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

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17. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 16, wherein the water-emulsifiable organic liquid is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols, phthalates, and aromatic phosphoric esters.
18. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one of the compound selected from the group consisting of melamine phosphate, dimelamine phosphate, melamine pyrophosphate, melamine polyphosphates, melam polyphosphates, melem polyphosphates and melon polyphosphates.
19. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one melamine condensation product selected from the group consisting of melam, melem, and melon.
20. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of oligomeric esters of tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate with aromatic polycarboxylic acids, benzoguanamine, tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate, allantoin, glycoluril, melamine, melamine cyanurate, dicyandiamide.
21. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a nitrogen-containing phosphates of the formulae  $(\text{NH}_4)_y\text{H}_{3-y}\text{PO}_4$  or  $(\text{NH}_4\text{PO}_3)_z$ , where y is from 1 to 3 and z is from 1 to 10 000.
22. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a synthetic inorganic compound a mineral product or both.
23. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed claim 22, wherein the synthetic inorganic compound or the mineral product is selected from the group consisting of an oxygen compound of silicon, magnesium compounds,

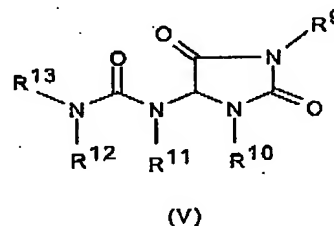
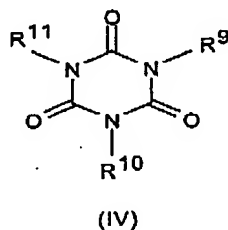
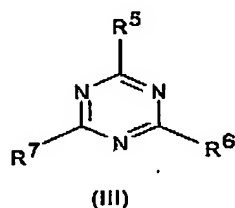
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metal carbonates of metals of the second main group of the periodic table, red phosphorus, comprises zinc compounds and aluminum compounds.

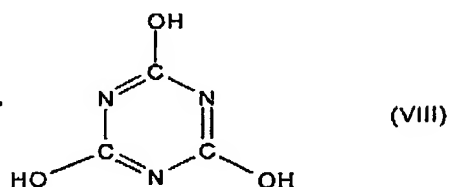
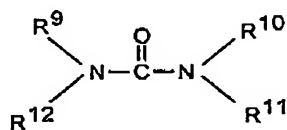
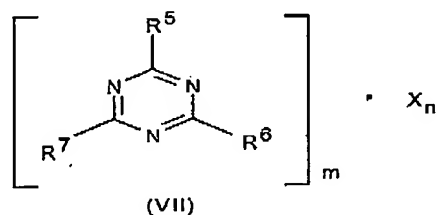
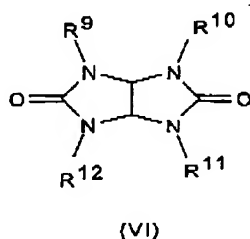
24. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 23, wherein the oxygen compounds of silicon are selected from the group consisting of salts and esters of orthosilicic acid and condensation products thereof, silicates, zeolites, silicas, glass powder, glass/ceramic powder, ceramic powder; wherein the magnesium compounds are selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide, hydrotalcites, magnesium carbonates and magnesium calcium carbonates; wherein the zinc compounds are selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc stannate, zinc hydroxystannate, zinc phosphate, zinc borate, and zinc sulfides; and wherein the aluminum compounds are selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide and aluminum phosphate.

25. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one nitrogen compound.

26. (Currently Amended) The composition compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein the nitrogen compounds are selected from the formulae (III) to (VIII) and mixtures thereof



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where

$R^5$  to  $R^7$  are hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl, or  $C_5$ - $C_{16}$ -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -hydroxyalkyl function,  $C_2$ - $C_8$ -alkenyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkoxy, -acyl, or -acyloxy,  $C_6$ - $C_{12}$ -aryl or -arylalkyl,  $-OR^8$ ,  $-N(R^8)R^9$ , N-alicyclic systems or N-aromatic systems,

$R^8$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_{16}$ -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -hydroxyalkyl function,  $C_2$ - $C_8$ -alkenyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkoxy, -acyl, or -acyloxy, or  $C_6$ - $C_{12}$ -aryl or -arylalkyl,

$R^9$  to  $R^{13}$  are the groups of  $R^8$ , or  $-O-R^8$ ,

m and n, independently of one another, are 1, 2, 3, or 4,

X is and acid which can form adducts with triazine compounds (III).

27. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one carbodiimide.

28. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing compositions ~~compounds~~ as claimed in claim 1 comprising the steps of adjusting the pH of an aqueous

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suspension of a phosphinate to between ~~4 and 4~~ and 9, then adding an aqueous emulsion of a wax or of a synthetic resin, or a solution of the wax or synthetic resin in a water-miscible solvent, stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 40 to 80°C, wherein 0.1% to 20% wax or synthetic resin are applied to 80 to 99.9 parts by weight of phosphinate.

29. through 36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of the synthetic resin is from 1 to 5% by weight, based in the phosphinic salt.

38. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount added of the wax is from 1 to 5%, by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

39. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~compound~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein a water-emulsifiable organic liquid acting as a phlegmatizer is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 1% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

40. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, further comprising the steps of adding an aqueous emulsion of an organic liquid, stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 20 to 90°C.

41. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28 further comprising the step of adding from 0.1 to 5% by weight of phlegmatizer.